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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/796,172	03/10/2004	Tooru Horie	NIP-216-02	3500

7590 07/21/2005

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EXAMINER

BLACK, LINH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2167

DATE MAILED: 07/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/796,172

Applicant(s)

HORIE ET AL.

Examiner

LINH BLACK

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mikurak (US 6671818).

As per claim 1, Mikurak teaches:

means for registering information of an inquiry sent from a user via a telecommunication network - col. 22, lines 9-61; col. 127, lines 5-67.

means for preventing said registered information of said inquiry from being accessed by outsiders via said telecommunication network - col. 77, lines 3-66; col. 267, lines 19-50.

communication means for communicating said registered information of said inquiry to an information service furnisher - col. 106, lines 1-49; col. 159, lines 7-45.

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means for inputting an answer which responds to said communicated information of said inquiry - col. 125, lines 25-57; col. 161, lines 3-17.

means for sending said input answer to said user via said telecommunication network – col. 171, lines 29-39.

As per claim 2, Mikurak teaches:

means for sending said information of said inquiry, which has been registered by said first register means - col. 22, lines 9-61; col. 127, lines 5-67; col. 24, lines 1-61; col. 47, lines 20-45.

second register means for registering said information of said inquiry, which has been sent from said first register means – col. 41, lines 10-21; col. 97, lines 7-45; col. 162, lines 9-25.

means for preventing said information of said inquiry, which is registered in said second register means, from being accessed by outsiders via the telecommunication network – col. 77, lines 3-66; col. 267, lines 19-50.

wherein said communication information of said inquiry which is registered in said means communicates said second register means, to an information service furnisher – col. 15, lines 40-65; col. 82, lines 7-19.

As per claim 3, Mikurak teaches:

means for receiving information of an inquiry sent from a user via a telecommunication network – col. 40, lines 11-63; col. 41, lines 10-34.

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means for storing a history of all inquiries which have been received by said means for receiving information of an inquiry from each user – col. 120, lines 35-67.

means for furnishing information disclosed by an information service furnisher – col. 47, lines 20-45.

As per claim 4, Mikurak teaches:

means for receiving information of an inquiry sent from a user via a telecommunication network - col. 171 , lines 29-39.

means for storing a history of all inquiries which have been received by said means for receiving information of an inquiry from each user – col. 62, lines 1-13; col. 71, lines 18-34.

means for sending information, which includes voice data and/or dynamic image data, to said user – col. 27, line 65 to col. 28, line 4.

As per claim 5, Mikurak teaches:

first register means for registering information of an inquiry sent from a user via a telecommunication network - col. 22, lines 9-61; col. 127, lines 5-67.

means for storing a history of all inquiries which have been received by said means for receiving information of an inquiry from each user - col. 120, lines 35-67.

second register means for registering said information of said inquiry, which has been sent from said first register means - col. 41, lines 10-21; col. 97, lines 7-45; col. 162, lines 9-25.

means for preventing said information of said inquiry, which is registered in said second register means, from being accessed by outsiders via the telecommunication network - col. 77, lines 3-66; col. 267, lines 19-50.

wherein said communication means communicates said information of said inquiry, which is registered in said second register means, to an information service furnisher - col. 15, lines 40-65; col. 82, lines 7-19.

As per claim 6, Mikurak teaches:

wherein said information of said inquiry is on techniques relevant to a power plant - col. 22, lines 9-61.

As per claim 7, Mikurak teaches:

a web server for receiving information of an inquiry sent from a user via an internet - col. 63, lines 17-41; col. 106, lines 1-49; col. 171, lines 20-40.

an inquiry-information data base for storing said information of said inquiry, which has been received by said web server - col. 174, lines 45-58; col. 175, lines 8-15.

a fire wall for preventing said information of said inquiry, which is stored in said inquiry-information data base, from being accessed by outsiders via said telecommunication network - col. 77, lines 3-66; col. 172, lines 27-64; col. 267, lines 19-50.

an intranet for communicating said information of said inquiry, which has been stored by said web server, to an information service furnisher - col. 172, lines 10-26.

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an input unit for inputting an answer which responds to said inquiry information which has been communicated via said intranet – col. 77, lines 2-66; col. 125, lines 43-57.

a mail server for sending said answer to said inquiry which has been input by said input unit – col. 176, lines 1-59.

As per claim 8, Mikurak teaches:

a second web server for periodically taking in said information of said inquiry, which is stored in said inquiry-information data base – col. 33, lines 37-57; col. 106, lines 1-49.

a second fire wall for preventing said information of said inquiry, which has been stored by said second web server, from being accessed by outsiders via said telecommunication network – col. 269, lines 1-19.

wherein said intranet communicates said information of said inquiry, which has been stored by said second web server, to an information service furnisher – col. 172, lines 10-26.

As per claim 9, Mikurak teaches:

technical support according to an inquiry-information data base for storing said information of said inquiry, web server – col. 269, line 50 to col. 270, line 17.

which has been received by said an inquiry-history data base for storing a history of all inquiries which have been received by said means for receiving information of an inquiry from each user which has been registered in advance – col. 33, lines 37-57; col. 106, lines 1-49.

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wherein said fire wall prevents said information of said inquiry, which is stored in said inquiry-information data base and said inquiry-history data base, from being accessed by outsiders via said telecommunication network - col. 77, lines 3-66; col. 172, lines 27-64; col. 269, lines 1-19.

As per claim 10, Mikurak teaches:

wherein said answer input by said input unit, which responds to said information of said inquiry, which has been communicated via said intranet, includes voice data and/or dynamic image data – col. 27, line 65 to col. 28, line 4.

As per claim 11, Mikurak teaches:

wherein said information of said inquiry is on techniques relevant to the power plant, and said mail server sends said answer relevant to techniques of the power plant which responds to said inquiry – col. 22, lines 9-61; col. 23, lines 13-24.

As per claim 12, Mikurak teaches:

means for counting work-hours of persons which have corresponded with said inquiry sent from each user, and reporting said workhours or charges calculated based on said workhours to said user – col. 47, lines 9-55; col. 62, lines 50-67; col. 185, lines 1-27.

As per claim 13, Mikurak teaches:

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a translation system for translating an answer sent from said information service
furnisher to said user – col. 33, lines 100-35; col. 45, lines 18-32; col. 131, lines 60-67.

As per claim 14, Mikurak teaches:

means for sending an answer which responds to said inquiry send from said user, to
said user by e-mail – col. 126, lines 5-42.

As per claim 15, Mikurak teaches:

an answer center including expert staffs which offer technical support services to said
inquiry which has been communicated via said intranet – col. 77, lines 3-9; col. 78, lines
5-24.

wherein said user is a member of a thermal or nuclear power plant including a steam or
gas turbine , said information of said inquiry is on techniques relevant to said thermal or
nuclear power plant, and said answer to said inquiry is created by said answer center –
col. 10, lines 47-65; col. 82, lines 7-19; col. 100, line 59-66; col. 126, lines 34-67.

As per claim 21, Mikurak teaches:

retrieving said information stored in said inquiry-information data base in order to obtain
a countermeasure to an anomaly which has occurred, based on a name of a component
at which said anomaly has occurred, an a retrieval system for anomalous portion of said
component, and a phenomenon which has occurred, which are sent from said user;

wherein said mail server sends a countermeasure to said anomaly, which is obtained by said retrieval, to said user – col. 120, lines 56-59; col. 206, lines 45-67.

Claims 16-20 claim the same subject matters as of claims 1-15 and 21 and are rejected based on the same ground of rejections as of claims 1-15 and 21.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LINH BLACK whose telephone number is 571-272-4106. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN BREENE can be reached on 571-272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Linh Black

LINH BLACK
Examiner
Art Unit 2167

July 14, 2005


GRETA ROBINSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER